1061.9.17

A

LETTER

FROM A

Friend at J_____

TOA

FRIEND in LONDON:

GIVING

An IMPARTIAL ACCOUNT of the Violent Proceedings of the FACTION in that ISLAND.

One Spirit in them rul'd, and every Eye Glar'd Light'ning, and shot forth pernicious Fire Among th' Accurst, that wither'd all their Strength, And of their wonted Vigour left them drain'd, Exhausted, Spiritless, afflicted, fall'n.

MILTON, Par. Loft.

LONDON:

Printed for JOHN CREOLE, in Jamiaca-Street, Rotherhithe; and Sold at all Booksellers and Pamphlet-Shops in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and in his Majesty's Plantations.

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One Solved, in them was " in coopy Port Glar's Lepteraint, and in high manus Fire Amore in dearly, there is all their See gris, And of these wested From " them drain's Sahuan, d. Spiritale, ... d. galla.

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JOHN CRIORE, in Janua Spare, * teliformal line croleship colored to and l'amphier. Anchema 1 . LubjeM



LETTER

FROMA

Friend at 7 _____, &c.

[Price One Shilling.]



Friend as F C Frice One Shifting D



J --- , May 30th.

DEAR FRIEND,

OU have so long and so often importuned me to fend you a Sketch of our Transactions, in this inactive Part of the World. that I can no longer refift your Solicitations; especially at a Time, when I imagine your Curiofity may be raifed above an ordinary Pitch, with the confused Accounts you may already have received from various Reports: And as I undertake this Task of recapitulating many disagreeable Transactions, purely for your own Satisfaction; you must excuse all the Faults and Errors I may be liable to make in my Style; for as I have always, and will ever write to you as an intimate Friend and Acquaintance, I am careless with regard to Method or Connection; all I imagine you defire, and all I therefore intend is, to relate you the Facts, just as they

occur, and give you Accounts of the Tranfactions and Transactors with a Freedom. which Truth and Impartiality will ever juftify. As to the Personal Reflections which, in the Course of my Relation, I may run into, I remember to have read a Pamphlet, faid to be wrote by a Noble Author, wherein he fays, " He holds fuch Reflections al-" lowable and just, but always reasonable, " and often necessary." I confess myself of his Opinion, and therefore hope when you read mine, that you will approve, not condemn them. I shall begin from the Time of the present commanding A---- 's Arrival here; fince his unprecedented Conduct is now the Topic of all our Conversations, and I' make no doubt in some Measure contributes to yours at Home, when you have Time to withdraw from that abhorred and unnatural Scene of Rebellion which you are involved in. His Public Carriage in his Public Office, tallies with his Private Conduct in his Private Life; for they are both oppressive, cruel, and unjust, scandalous, mean and selfish. I will therefore give you a general Review of his Attachments, Aims, and Transactions here, with the Reasons that are evident linked him with the first, and reduced him to purfue and execute the two last.

It was in April was Twelvemonth that he took on him the Command of the F-, remained in Harbour till August, most Part of which Time there were no outward Appearances of his Discontent towards the G-, no public thwarting of that Gentleman's Conduct from him, but rather a feeming acquiefcing, than a hearty affifting in the G--'s Measures for the King's Service. The latter Part of July, fome Coolnesses were perceived on the A---'s Side, and endeavoured to be diverted on the other; the ill Consequences were foreseen by most, though to be prevented by none, fince even Captain L-(the A--'s best, nay almost only Friend) now began to be convinced that his friendly Offices would not have the wished-for Effect; he found his kind Interpolitions were but coldly received, and their joint Conclufions feldom executed: The clear Difcernment of that worthy, true Well-wisher to the Interest of his Country, left him no Stranger to what would enfue, and as he could not prevent, his Honour and Honefly (of which none need more than he inherits) would not permit him to be an idle Spectator; he therefore took the first Opportunity of changing the Command of his Ship for another to go Home. The G-Was was truly sensibly of this Loss; but his constant Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and tender Regard to keep and support that much
defired great and amiable Character he has
so justly acquired, and so strictly maintained,
made him determine to be the last that
should see, though the first that must seel
the Effects of the A—'s Conduct: When
I say seel, I do not mean that it could hurt,
but trouble him; and although it must for
a Time give a Check to the easy Stream,
with which the King's Business usually slowed through his Hands, yet Justice at last
must, and does prevail.

It was not yet that the Faction, which had for fome Time been lurking in the I-fland, dared to shew themselves with that indecent and unwarrantable Nakedness they appeared in at last; it was not yet they had given the A—— the sull Draught of that Poisonous Cup they had for some Time been preparing for him; and with which he was to be fired up to all violent Breaches both of Honour and Honesty; for nothing less could enable him to give a Sanction to all their unprecedented Proceedings.

But it was full Time for those concerned for the Welfare of the Public, and consequently wishing well to the just executive Part of both these Officers Offices, to pry into the Characters of those who could be Well-wishers to neither, from the Part they acted towards both: And, therefore, I shall first inform you of the Chiefs who compose this Faction, and then give you a general (though separate) Character of them.

Those Chiefs are, Mr. F——, Mr. G——, Mr. A——, and Mr. K——. I should have formed but a Triumvirate, but this last having been an Instrument of linking the A—— to this Crew (from the Priviledge of an old Acquaintance with him) I could not help making a Quadruple.

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Mr. F—— doth not want for a blundering fort of Understanding, nor an Imagination, which the lively, yet is turbulent and confused; but as he has no Judgment, he has neither fixed Principles, nor any steady Affections: I think it is certain he loves no one, and much to be questioned whether he hates any but as they thwart him in his ruling Passion, the Love of Power; so immoderate is he in that, he would submit to any Indignities, or undergo any Pains, to obtain or keep the least Branch of it: As he will flatter in the most service Man-

ner the meanest and worst of Men to their Faces, fo he will abuse the best in the most scurrilous and indecent Manner behind their Backs, and even those who had but just received the Incense of his Flattery; this he did with Impunity, it costing him nothing to deny it, or make the meanest Submissions with the greatest Professions of Friendship, Respect, &c. when called to Account for it; in this he triumphed for some Time undiscovered, few believing that he could be at the fame Time fo false and fo blunt, fo infincere and fo unpolite. Upon the whole, (to use some of his own Expressions, and the mildest of them,) he is a monstrous abfurd Fellow, by G-d; a bufy, buftling, blockbeaded Booby, with some Parts, and a clumfy Vivacity; and would be contemptible, even to the meanest, were he not worth 50,000 l. Some Time after the G--'s-Arrival, when he found he was not to be engroffed by him and his Set, but that he feemed to have a better Opinion of others, he began in private to be very liberal in his Abuses; but when he was suspended from the Council, (not having had the Modesty to refign his Seat, as two other Members had theirs, on the Bench, in order to open a Court of Errors, the Want of which was a great Stop of Justice) he indulged himself without

without Referve in his darling Love of Scandal, and in all Companies took all Methods of abusing the G-, and every Measure he took: The G-- continued him on the Bench, chiefly indeed out of Necessity, his best Friends, and those that were in every other respect the fittest for that Office, declining it, through too great Indolence, until they faw the Necessity the G-was under of putting Persons on the Bench that were not fit for it, none but poor Creatures caring to fit under Mr. F-: Upon that, the Gentlemen who compose the prefent Bench offered their Service to the G-, who did not hesitate a Moment to make Use of the Opportunity which he had fo much longed for, but (to the Surprize of no one, tho' the Joy of many) fent Mr. F--- his Quietus directly. The Loss of this only Power left him was fuch a Wound to his Ambition, that he grew rather fiercer; more abusive he could not be: He vowed a Revenge in every Shape, and at any Rate, . and what (poor Coward) his private Character will not permit him to take, his public one (as Affembly Man) we find is to make up for, fince just or unjust he pursues all Means. So that he is every Way more like an irrational Monster than a rational Man. Mr.

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Mr. G- is a Wretch, who is now so intirely divested of all Principles of either Honour or H---, that by a little Flattery and Court, he is eafily biaffed against Authority, however justly lodged, and properly executed: He has a pretty good Estate, was early made a Judge, and upon the Chief Justice's Sickness, presided in his Room, being the eldest Affistant for one whole Sessions a little before he left the Island, about twelve or fourteen Years ago, in which he got the Reputation of an honest Man, tho' of very indifferent Parts, and very loofe Behaviour: He was thought to know the Forms of the Court, and as all the whole Turn of his Mind was to the Knowledge of the Law, even as to engross all his Thoughts and Conversation, it was thought if he was good for any Thing it must be for the Beach, at least that he would be a properer Person to be Chief Justice than Mr. F---, who, upon Mr. K----'s Refignation about two Years ago, was the eldest Affistant on the Bench; but his Head was foon turned with Power when he arrived to that Office; and tho' he deviated much from his Duty by ever studying to oppose, rather than protect Authority, yet none was ever fo tenacious of that Part of it which was lodged in his Hands, nor none ever affumed fo much in the Station: Mr. F---r, instead

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instead of resenting his being put over him, plied him with the groffest Flatteries, till he got the intire Ascendant over his Mind. G-- had a Quarrel with Mr. P---, the A --- (a Gentleman whose Integrity, Abilities, and Worth, makes his Acquaintance courted and Friendship valued) and was indifcreet enough to use the Aill in Court; he therefore feared the Gwould take the other's Part, and remove him, which he undoubtedly deferved. This gave Mr. F- an Opportunity to infinuate himself still more with him; he assured him, that if he was removed, himself and all the other J--dg-s would refign: This gained the poor Tool intirely, and he was ready from that Time to receive any Impression Mr. F-- would give him; he took Pains to convince F--- of his Attachment to him by his determined Opposition to the G--, and every Measure which seemed to redound to his Honour.

Mr. A—— is one whose Principles were ever suspected, so much so, that in G—— H—'s Time, on his Account an Act passed to oblige every Member of the Assembly to take the Oaths; and tho' he complied out of a Necessity, yet there are sew but know the extensive Power of Absolution

lution in the Church of Rome; but so notorious was and is his Manner of acting, that he has never been trusted by any Government. His very Affociates in this Faction, till this very critical Juncture, have ever declared, both publicly and privately, that he was a Man by no Means to be employed for the Government; and yet to stick to their Text, of flicking at nothing to gain their pernicious End against the Gthey took great Pains, and fummoned all the Remains of their shattered Credit, to have him chose Sp---r of the Ass--ly: Sure this is but too melancholly a Testimony that they would have facrificed their Island, and the Interest of their Mother-Country, to their private Revenge! It will be needless to say any more of this Man, than his being to every Person, and in every Thing, very trivial and infignificant, but in his Poffeffions.

Mr. K——, the late C—— J——, as he has Parts sufficient to make him a useful Member of Society, so can he be a great Disturber of the public Tranquility, when led by Faction, and swayed by Passion: As he has seen somewhat more of the World than most in these Parts, he is well bred and complaisant, so as to render himself acceptable

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ble to the best of the Island, and by his Knowledge in the Law, he was of Use to his Neighbours; so that he was a Man of Weight, notwithstanding the ill Repute his Name was in. He was made C-- J---in his Turn, and always behaved with great Decency and Respect towards the G--, as on the other hand the G, however little cordial he might be, and upon his Guard against a K----, yet he ever shewed him the Civility and Regard that was due to his Station: However, Mr. K--- having quarrelled with Mr. P-- (the present Sp—r) with whom he had always hitherto acted, and was much helped by his Friendship, which, at last, Mr. K--- betrayed, and could never be forgiven by Mr. P-, who is as strict in all Points of Honour, as he is incapable of being concerned in any thing mean, or with any Person not deserving the Character which he himself has acquired, and which all good and fenfible Men might boast to obtain: He did not know how to hurt the Sp--r, or make himself considerable, but by joining Mr. F--- and the Faction, tho' till now mortal Enemies to each other; but as he found himself much lighter in the Esteem of, and indeed slighted by those, whose Conduct his cooler Reflections would otherwise recommend him to follow,

he refigned, and joined the Faction with rather more Moderation than any of the rest, and as he had been an old Acquaintance of the A-'s, has feemed latterly to look upon it as an Obligation to redeem his Character in some measure if possible: The A- being fometimes his Guest, made him at those Junctures harangue in the Affembly with more Vehemence than otherwise: but as it is certain this Gentleman has often declared he was linked to them, not thro' Choice but Necessity, so it is likewise as evident he thinks himself obliged to put in Execution every dirty Job thrown on him by his present Affociates: To conclude the Characters of these Four, and groupe them together; Mr. K-, A-, and F-, each mortally hated and detefted by the other two, and as for poor Mr. G-, they all three heartily despised him,

As these were the Leaders of the Faction, it is easy to judge what Wretches those must be who were to be led by such. And indeed as they were mostly People whom neither Birth or Education had intitled to better Principles than are found among the general Run of Overseers to Plantations; those who were supporting the G-—'s Authority, and rendering him that Justice due to his great Merits,

Merits, found little Loss in their Attachments. From this it may be natural for you to ask, what could induce the A— to receive the Acquaintance, and embrace the seeming Friendship of so abandoned a Herd? What Zeal could he shew for the King's Service, by encouraging, fomenting and heading such a Crew, whose sole Motives were to oppose and thwart the G—— right or wrong?

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But let us return to the A——'s Aims and Transactions, in the Course of which we shall find what Emissaries were employed, and what Means those Emissaries used to render him so blind to his Master's Interest, and so regardless of his own Character.

I have already told you the Aremained in the Harbour till August, at
which Time he sailed with the Convoy
for England, and after seeing them partly through the Windward Passage, he remained at Sea with sour Sail of the Line
till the middle of October: I shall forbear
relating any Particulars of so absurd a Manner of cruizing; although (from the Accounts I have had, which have been very
authentic and related by several Captains, as
well as other Officers) there were many Circumstances

cumstances which would afford some Astonishment; others, some Diversion; but I think all Concern to find the common Caufe fo much neglected, and the Public Service fo trifled with. In the A-'s Return he met with the B— (Captain D—-) who (by Captain D-s's Orders) was going to P-- A-o, to convoy down a Sloop that went with a Flag of Truce from hence to L-; but which, instead of protecting, he feized, agreeable to the private verbal Orders he had received from the Ain this Meeting. In a little Time after the A---'s Return, this much looked for, much wished for Sloop came in as a Veffel seized by the aforesaid B--: This made a great Noise, and justly alarmed every Trader of the Island; and though the A-- for many good Reasons was told it was not only impracticable to make a Seizure of her, but likewise if he could, it would be a Breach of his Word and Honour, both which stood greatly pledged for the Protection of that Veffel *. Yet he fent Captain

in the S---; as their Cargoes had little or no Consumption here, the Captains of them offered to be Purchasers, on Condition they might have a Vessel to carry the Goods to L----, and make the Returns in Indigo: As it was plain this Proposal would be beneficial

D---- in great Haste to S--- sh-T--n, to confult with Lawyers in order to condemn her; but when it was found impossible, and after several false Aspersions, and (as I have been credibly informed) fome extorted Affidavits, which the A --- thought was necessary as a Veil for his real Intentions, he gave her up, and endeavoured to faddle the whole Blame of fo dirty a Jobb on Captain D---, who had but obeyed his Orders: However that failing, he became fensible of his open Breach of all Harmony and Truft, and grew fo much ashamed of seeing the G---, that from this Time he never paid him the common Civilities due from one Gentleman to another, and had hardly that Communication with him which the Necesfity of the Service made requisite. From this, I think, I may date all the Coolnesses, and from this I might have dated all the Evils

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to the Commerce, the G-— made no Objection; nor did the A—, when he found this would raife the Value considerably of Prize Goods: Therefore the G— and A—'s Consent being obtained, the Captains borrowed Money, purchased the Goods, and hired a Vessel; they made their Returns punctually in this very Flag of Truce; which the A— ordered to be seized, and attempted in this Manner to make a double Advantage of, notwithstanding she was dispatched with his Consent, and he made acquainted with every Circumstance of the Agreement, before he sailed with the Convoy.

cumstances which would afford some Astonishment; others, some Diversion; but I think all Concern to find the common Cause fo much neglected, and the Public Service fo trifled with. In the A-'s Return he met with the B— (Captain D—-) who (by Captain D--s's Orders) was going to P-- A-o, to convoy down a Sloop that went with a Flag of Truce from hence to L-; but which, instead of protecting, he feized, agreeable to the private verbal Orders he had received from the Ain this Meeting. In a little Time after the A---'s Return, this much looked for, much wished for Sloop came in as a Vessel seized by the aforesaid B--: This made a great Noise, and justly alarmed every Trader of the Island; and though the A-- for many good Reasons was told it was not only impracticable to make a Seizure of her, but likewise if he could, it would be a Breach of his Word and Honour, both which stood greatly pledged for the Protection of that Veffel *. Yet he fent Captain

[•] Two French Prizes were brought in by Capt. L—
in the S----; as their Cargoes had little or no Consumption here, the Captains of them offered to be Purchasers, on Condition they might have a Vessel to carry the Goods to L-—-, and make the Returns in Indigo: As it was plain this Proposal would be beneficial

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to the Commerce, the G-— made no Objection; nor did the A—, when he found this would raise the Value considerably of Prize Goods: Therefore the G— and A—'s Consent being obtained, the Captains borrowed Money, purchased the Goods, and hired a Vessel; they made their Returns punctually in this very Flag of Truce; which the A— ordered to be seized, and attempted in this Manner to make a double Advantage of, notwithstanding she was dispatched with his Consent, and he made acquainted with every Circumstance of the Agreement, before he sailed with the Convoy.

Evils and Miferies that must have enfued; had not the G--'s Resolutions been as fixed for the Interest of his Sovereign, as (I am forry to fay) the A--'s feemed the reverse. But as this was the critical Time in which the Faction built all their Hopes for gaining an entire Ascendant over the A-, I cannot more properly introduce one of those Emissaries employed, which I have before fpoke off, though not named; this was Mr. J- G-, who (as Agent V ——) was an Officer under the A—; and from being a dishonest Man, became both a Dependant and an Attendant on him. Mr. G -- is infinuating and artful, and has fufficiently of that Sense which subtle Craft requires; his very Approach to a Gentleman warns what is to be expected from him; the Knowledge of himself, scarce ever permits him to look in the Face of those he fpeaks to, which is feldom in public, and hardly exceeds a Whisper in private: The Money he has so shortly amassed, as it was furprizing to most, was hardly credible to any; yet from the Purchase he made in this Island, and the profuse Manner with which he carried on his Settlements, he left no room to doubt of his having found fome fecret Methods of defrauding the Government. As he was convinced nothing could influence

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influence or divert the G- from his conftant Application to detect, and steady Practice to suppress all kind of Knavery, he readed his Justice and Zeal for the Servie; that Dread being now grown to Hatred, he made open and infolent Declarations of being a professed Enemy to the G-, and as fuch Resolutions were sufficent Qualifications to recommend him to the Leaders of the Faction, he found no Difficulty in being courteously received by them; and through their Collective Interest chose Assembly Man for the Parish +, in which he was fo lavishly squandering of the Government's Money. The constant Attendance he gave the A foon made him a Judge of his Weakneffes, of which he lost no Opportunity to make himself, and soon became absolute Master of, by openly feeding his Vanity, gratifying his Ambition, and cautioufly endeavouring to quench his uncommon Thirst for Riches. As soon as the A - received Hopes of obtaining this last (his darling) End; no Schemes were acceptable, no Counsel wholesome, no Acquaintance worthy, nor no Measures good, but fuch as Mr. G -- laid, gave, recommended, and approved: So that the friendly Ad-

galving and the St. G.

monitions of a real Friend or two, that were still left with the A --, and remained purely from a Defire of being serviceable, were now of no more Validity: Mr. G - engroffed his Ear, and had an absolute Sway ver him; consequently, he soon became acquainted with the Faction, approved their destructive Schemes, and openly avowed himself at the Head of them, by permitting its being called, The A---; and fuffering his Name to be made use of, whenever they were pleased to think it either of Weight with others, or a Sanction to themselves. As the delivering up of this Sloop, was a Step by no Means agreeable to the Faction; fearing that here the A---'s Contest with the G-would cease, so it was no Way approved by Mr. G-, because her Cargoe was chiefly belonging to Mr. Mand 0- (the principal Merchants of the Island, as well as Representatives in the Affembly for the Town of K-,) Gentlemen, who from their Honesty, Weight and Abilities, he had formerly looked on as Rivals, in regard to the Sway which was hoped they would have with the Aby most Well-wishers to the Country; but now he confidered them among the honest Detefters of the absurd, and destructive Schemes of the Faction; and the giving them

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them any Trouble (for more could not be obtained) about their Effects, he perceived would shake their Attachments to the A--; who was therefore still to perfist in the Illegality of the Sloop's Voyage, to press fome Men out of her, and take their Affidavits in regard to every Article of her Cargoe; and though these violent Proceedings could not make it amount to a Confiscation, (the Point aimed at, and wished-for,) yet the G —— was to receive a Blow in Masque; that is, in Fact, Mr. M—— and O— were to be accused of no less a Crime than High-Treason, for carrying on an illicite Trade with the Enemy; but it was to appear, the G- instead of preventing, had connived at it, which was the Fly that F—— foun his fecret Web for. This Accusation Mr. G—— was to breathe into the A ----, who had already drank fo deep of the Cup, that he could now digest whatever was given by fo weighty a Hand; he was to be made the Accuser, but it so happened, that he only proved in this the Informer, though he knew the one was as unjust as the other; but after his afferting to the G--, That he had found Proofs for his Charge, and expected Juch Persons should be brought to condign Punishment, he found himself under a Necessity of not D 2

trifling with fo ferious a Charge; and as he was regardless of becoming an Informer, (however unjustly fo) he drew up his Affidavits in the Form of Informations, and remitted them to the G-- in Council; who having the A-- G--'s Opinion thereon, found they were of no Consequence; nor, indeed, fo full and explicit, as the Accounts Mr. M-- and O- had fent to the Councils themselves, therefore no Profecution could be formed. As all the mercenary Views of the Head in this, vanished here, so the immediate pernicious Ends of the Faction were in some measure disappointed: However, the seizing of this Sloop in fuch a Manner, on fuch an Occafion, and belonging to fuch People, was of too great Consequence to the real Merchants in general of the Island, to be so passively paffed over; for all future Security was undoubtedly rendered very precarious, from the little Dependance they could have, of the once promised Protection from the A --- ; who now became as dangerous an Enemy to them, as the Public One. Therefore, in the beginning of November, the Merchants drew up a Petition to the Gand Council, fetting forth feveral Grievances which they laboured under, and defired they might be laid before his Majesty; for

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for that they had great Reason to fear (from this A--'s Conduct) that his Majesty had altered his Royal Intentions of protecting and encouraging them in fo beneficial a Branch of Trade; and praying, if not, that they might receive some fort of Security from future Molestations of that kind: They likewife fet forth several other Oppressions, some in regard to Preffing, which was now carried on with little Limitations or Restrictions, though with more Vehemence on Board the Vessels, belonging to Mr. M-and O-, than any other; for at this very Time, they had two Sloops loaded, and bound for the S--K---, which, notwithstanding the great Wages given, they were obliged to man them fufficient for Defence: As foon as they were manned and ready for the Sea, (nay, under Sail for their Voyage) an Officer was fent from the A---- to each Sloop, who took away four Men from each, among which was the Pilot, whom the A --- was well informed they could not proceed without, from their being ignorant of the Creek they were to go up, and the ill Consequences that must attend their being detained any longer, as their Lading confifted chiefly of Negroes and dry Goods; but no wonder He was prevailed with to use such illegal, unjust and dishonest Methods

thods to destroy the Voyage, for there was an additional Pique, as he supposed by their manning the Sloops, they wanted to avoid paying for Convoy. But you will shortly find this Pilot, (called I--- C---) was intended for fome further Purposes, not less dangerous to those Gentlemen, but which were now only ripening. About this Time a Paper was industriously and cautiously handed about the Town of K-, which there is great Reason to believe was drawn up by the A _____'s own S_____, jointly with the Heads of the Faction, by way of a Panegyrical Address to the A--; which was figned by Mr. M—, (a Joint-Agent for the Prizes) Mr. G—, their Book-keepers, Clerks, with feveral Shop-keepers, Warfingers, and Apothecaries, two or three of which Number being particular Dependants of Mr. G --- , to their Shame recanted what they had figned to, in the Petition to and Council *. This was partly the Point aimed at, as it fet forth, that the Merchants had been misled in figning the above Petition, and did now by this

Mr. M— was told by Mr. G—, if he would fign this Paper to the A—, he would hire his Sloop to carry Provisions to R—; on which Confideration he figned it. Such are those who compose the Number for that noble Quadruple's Schemes.

Address make a Recantation of all they had alledged before: Though great Care was taken that no Copy should be had of it, yet it was well known, that it contained feveral Reflections, highly injurious to some of the principal Merchants; on which another Petition was drawn up by the Commerce, with feveral Affidavits, and fome Letters annexed to it, proper for attesting the Facts contained therein, and fent the latter End of November to the G--- and Council: fetting forth the base Means used to asperse the Commerce, and the many heavy Grievances they laboured under from fuch pernicious Defigns: It also contained a Repetition of those Distresses the Trade fuffers, from the present licentious Manner of Pressing here; and praying the G---- to lay their Grievances before his Majesty, and endeavour to obtain for them, such Redress and Indulgence, as to his Majesty in his great Wisdom Shall feem meet. When the G---- and Council had received, and found how justly their Complaints were founded, and how necesfary it was to feek that Redress which the Inflice of the Throne affords to the Subject, a Copy of each Petition, as well as the Affidavits therewith, was immediately transmitted to the A---- by the G----, before any could be fent Home; this the G--- did,

in Hopes that the A---- would have perceived and confidered the Trouble, fuch Representations must give the Government at fuch a Time, and that the A---- might endeavour to redress those Grievances which fprung from himself, and so get the Petitions withdrawn: But even this Testimony of the G -- 's Politeness, and indeed friendly Hint, was treated far different from what he might have expected, and would certainly have received from any other Person. I cannot omit telling you, that while even these Transactions were carrying on, it is certain the G---- treated the A---, both in his Correspondence to him, and in his Conversation of him, with the greatest Complacency, while the A---- feemed to be struggling to exceed him by the Reverse in both. I am now come to that Part of my Relation, with which the Faction's Schemes were to be worked with here, and compleated by at home. To relate every Particular, would employ too much of both your and my Time; and yet to omit many, would leave you too much unacquainted with the Means, the Faction used to gain their Ends; fince it is scarce probable to imagine, a Person of the A----'s high Rank could study and undertake such base Steps; and less possible to credit his endeavouring to put them in Execution.

Execution. It will therefore be necessary for me to acquaint you of a 8- Gentleman, who was permitted to refide here, whose Permission he obtained, and the Motives for having obtained it; fince the Faction made that Gentleman's Refidence, the Mark for throwing their venomed Arrows against; though as it was built on a good Foundation, it was Proof against the Weapons of such a Mob. This Gentleman (Don P -- D'E ---) arrived in this Island, in a Flag of Truce from P in the Year 1744. d'His Bufi--nefs was to treat with the Merchants touching the Ransom of Prize-Goods, as likewise to open a New Channel of Trade, between this Island and V-C-, which cannot fail of being very advantageous to G-B-, as well as this Place: On his Arrival he acquainted the G- with his Schemes; who with Sir C-O (then the Commanding A on this Station) approved them; and permitted him to remain on Shore, that he might have full Liberty to treat with fuch Merchants as he pleased to agree with: He made a Voyage to V-C-, but his Project then not succeeding, he very honourably returned, to make up his Accounts with those he was concerned with: Since that, he has received Letters from the

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the H-, to establish a Trade with this Colony; therefore he waited on the Gwith a Lift of fundry Articles with which they were to Trade. And although his Schemes and Proposals were approved by the G-, as perceiving they must be very beneficial to the Commerce in general; yet the G- would not give his Confent, till he had made the present A -- acquainted (Sir C-O-being relieved) with the Project, and had his Approbation therein. Don P-- D'E- then waited on the A-- with his Proposals, and with a Letter from the G. wherein he tells the A -- that unless it meets with his Approbation and Confent, Don P- mall find no further Countenance from him; but the A. who received Don P-- very politely, not only promised to protect, but affured him, be would encourage that Trade as far as he was able; and answered the G--/s Letter to the same Purpose. Nothing now remained but Don P--'s making Choice of some of the principal Merchants to contract with. He applied to Mr. M-- and O-, but some Differences arising in relation to their Agreement, and having full Liberty to contract with whom he pleased without Restriction; he had several other Proposals made to him, particularly by Mr. MF-, other being received Lenels from

ods

, and Meffieurs H- and Tbut they not taking Effect, he at last accepted of those made him by Mr. M-and O on which those Gentlemen immediately wrote to the A- themselves, and fent him a Lift of the Articles which they had contracted for, defiring he would object to any he did not approve. This he answered, having objected to two or three Articles, confented to the rest, and promised them his Protection and Encouragement, referring them also to his Letter to the Gon the fame Purpose, an Extract of which he fent them. All being concluded with Joint-Consent, this S- Gentleman resided with Mr. M and O, at the S-S— House in K—, being more convenient for the forwarding this Business, to which he confined himself without ever interfering or meddling in any other Affairs; but as the A-- had given his Approbation and Consent, at a Time when the Faction had not the Honour to be intirely headed by him; and consequently Mr. G- not thought altogether so bonest; or so proper to advise with: Accience Entire of the att

The Intentional Scheme of Don P—'s was now to be disapproved, the Execution of it vilified and scandalized, the End proposed

posed by it entirely abolished, and the Parties concerned it, reported about as Traitors, and prosecuted with all the Rigour, which illegal and and dishonest Means, bribed, threatened and perjured Evidences could obtain.

Then they were founding aloud the Praises of their Chief, his Protection of the Trade as far as in his Power, his having once gone out himself since his Arrival at J—; but however they chose rather to dwell on their salse Aspersions of others, than their Acclamations of him, since they had Sense enough to know, there was more Probability of gaining Credit for the first, than any, from

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from what they could urge in Favour of the last.

The A—— had interested himself in the Elections, but received little Encouragement to continue doing so, from finding the little Weight he had, but immediately amidst his own Faction.

The Assembly met March 18, 1745-6. Mr. P— (a Gentleman of strict Honour and Integrity, and one of the greatest Possessions in the Island) was chose S——, though violently opposed by Mr. A——, on which I have already dwelt. Mr. P—— being in the Chair was a terrible Prospect for the Faction; for they had long since abandoned any Views towards the Welfare of the Island; and from this Gentleman's known Zeal and Candour, they had Reasons to fear he would destroy their Aims, and consequently set their Actions to view.

The first Point the Faction was to gain, was for their Leader, who was not to be held if not paid. The Island had been for some Time in Hopes of receiving the Naval Reinforcements, which the A---- on his Arrival had affored them were to follow him:

him; but his having fince so often expressed a Surprize at the Government's Delay and Neglect of the Colonies, notwithstanding his repeated Applications Home, and constant Representations of the Situation of the Island, has removed all their future Expectations, and left them under a general Consternation. As this Consternation sprung from the A—'s declaring be gave up all Hopes, the Faction thought it was necessary for their future Schemes, to remove any Suspicions or any Slurs that could fall on their Chief on this Occasion, and therefore they must procure him the Thanks of the A ..., for his Distribution of those very few Ships he was left with: This the A--- vehemently pushed for, and on the oth of April, he received a Letter from the S- of the A-, wrote pursuant to their Resolutions on a Motion made for that Purpole by Mr. F---; as it is short I cannot help inserting it. umportuning)

mans no beannol digoda pril 9, 1746.

"SIR,

"I T appearing to the A---- that you had used your vigilant Endeavours for protecting the Sea-Coast of this Island; they

" they came to a Resolution to return you " their Thanks, for fuch your Endeavours.

" I therefore by their Order, and in their " Name, return you their Thanks,"

anoise And am, S. I.R., her man the bow

Your most bumble Servant,

ang of him gair to the concy, in the concy, and to the concy, and the concy, and the concy, and the concy sufpicion as under the concept suppicion of white or white concepts

This Letter, calthough wrote Word for Word, pursuant to the Resolutions of the A--, fell greatly short of the A-'s Defire and Expectations; and indeed the Public Reasons urged against sending even this cold, this meering one, made it very unacceptable, for it was notoriously avowed, it would not have paffed in any Sense, had not the continual urging on one Hand, (from the A-'s importuning) and a weak Apprehension (though founded on their Knowledge of the A---'s Principles) on the other, made them fear, that in Case of an utter Refusal, they should have met with a revengefut Neglett of their Coafters; fuch were the Reafons for his having fuch Thanks from to the Sea-Coat of from

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you ours nd; hey from the A—; and had it not been for some of his Tutors in the Faction, he would (as he declared himself when he received it) have answered it as it deserved.

During this Time, great Exclamations were made against Don P----'s residing here; the A and his Sett, ever speaking of him with the utmost Indecency, terming all those whose Roofs he was under, or who shewed him any Politeness, Traitors to their Country, and fuch like: In short, they left nothing unsaid, nor undone, however falfely, or bafely, that could inflame the People against him, and those concerned with him; though it was easy to perceive their Aim, was to throw a Slur on the G-, for permitting him to refide here. This was Mr. F -- 's fole Intenwho did but laugh at the rest, and made them plunge in other Affairs, only to divert their immediately perceiving his Scheme, so kept Mr. G— to play about -, and keep him close to their the A-Text. utter Refufal, they (hould have

Mr. F——'s Combustible (which I mentioned before) being prepared, and knowing it not to be *Proof*, he chose one of his Workmen

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Workmen to give it Fire, that if it had the wrong Effect, he might endeavour to escape the immediate consuming himself.

The 10th of April (as they thought) afforded a favourable Opportunity in the A-- to let fly; for Mr. P-, Member for the Parish of St. A--'s, and one of meanest (if there be any meaner than the Head) of the Faction, stepped out of his Seat, and was heard to whisper Mr. G-: Now is the Time, for fuch and fuch (naming feveral Members who were Detefters of fuch vile Proceedings) were out of the House; on which Mr. G -- immediately rose, and made a Motion to this Effect, That a S bad refided in this Island several Months, no Body knew why, or wherefore, and be was concerned in many Privateers, and gave Intelligence to the King's Enemies; that the Sunday before, the A -- bad informed bim of it, with this particular Circumstance, that if he could meet with him, he would lay hold of him, and confine bim, be therefore moved to have bim taken in Custody.—This Motion was warmly and indecently seconded by Mr. F---; but it being urged on the other Side, that Don P---- was not here without proper F Leave,

Leave, and not without being under proper Restrictions, the Debate was adjourned to the 17th following.

Here I must observe, that Mr. G-, as C-J---, was undoubtedly guilty of feveral Breaches of his Duty, (and indeed was within a very few of being expelled the House';) first, in having received this Information from the A ---, and never reprefenting it to the G--; and next, having had it (as an Assembly-Man) of the Sunday, and never mentioning it to the House, till the Thursday following: Though had he acquainted the G-, he need not have mentioned it to the House. Another Breach of his Duty, as C- J-, was, not acquainting the A-, when he faid, he would lay bold of Don P and confine bim; that he (the A---) had no fuch Jurisdiction, and then acquaint the G—— of a Defign; which might (if executed) be so pernicious to the Liberty of every Subject, as a Man who has not the Authority on Shore of a petty Constable, attempting to seize and confine at Pleasure.

The 17th the Debate renewed, from which it was resolved; As it appeared Don

P— was here under the G— 's Protection, that he should be desired to order Don P— to attend the House on the 19th following, which the G— readily granted; although he knew the Assembly had no Right to enter into such Enquiries. For a well-meaning Man ever loves to have his honest Actions set to view, whenever the least Suspicions or Censures arise, however ill-founded the one, and meanly aspersed the other.

This Day, which was intended to have been a fatal Day to those accused, the A — went to S — T —, for the first Time, fince his Return from Sea, (about Eight Months,) and instead of going to the G——'s went to Mr. F—'s, who he fet down himself in a Chariot at the Affembly-Room Door, under the very Windows of the G--'s House; and refided entirely with the Faction, encouraging and fomenting them during the Time of Don P-'s Examination; he was affured that his being present would influence and keep together the low-minded Herd of the Faction, who flattered themselves with an imaginary Sanction from the Authority of an A--; as for Mr. D--, he F 2

was too well known to have any expected from him.

On the 19th, Don P— appeared before the House, and the Evidences against him were cited, which were Seventeen in Number: The first and principal one, was the Pilot (I—— C—) taken out of Mr. M— and O—'s Sloop before-mentioned, and who was kept on Board the A——'s Ship a close Prisoner ever fince, (about Seven Months,) and now brought up under a Guard of Seamen from the Ship, not suffered to speak to any one but those of the Faction, till he came before the House. After being sworn, he was asked, "Whether he "came not a Prisoner from the A——'s "Ship? He answered, Yes? How he had "been treated? He said —— Cruelly." And as he was going on, Mr. F—— was putting off his Examinationn, but the House resolved to continue it.

And according to the Minutes of the House, and the private Minutes of several Members (nay, even Mr. F——'s own, when compared with others, and tallied) it appeared he had been cruelly used by the A———; who had personally threat-ened

ened to destroy and hang him, if he did not declare against Don P—— *. That the A—— shewed him a Paper, and told him if he would subscribe to that, or consirm it on Oath, he would set him at Liberty; therefore to be free from so miserable a State, he subscribed and consented to any Thing; but now he declared on Oath they were all false, and extorted from him. Let me now make some Observations on this Evidence, which caused such a seeming Astonishment among the Fastion themselves, who would then have been glad to be thought innocent of so black a Crime.

Why did the A—— keep this C—confined, till this Day? If he was suspected of, or charged with being a Traitor—why was he not tried in the Space of Seven Months?

Why was this Evidence to be so cautiously guarded, that none but the Accusers

could

^{*} It was reported about, that this C— was an Englishman, and that he had ferved in the S—Gallies, on which Account he was a Traitor; but it was generally imagined, that this was no more than reported, for a Cloak for confining and terrifying the Man.

could see or hear of him, till his Appearance before the House?

Why did Mr. F—— endeavour to stop Examination after the first Answer, (viz. that he had been cruelly used) after having all along appeared so sanguine for forwarding of it, as if from the least Delay bad Consequences might ensue?

Can you, my Friend, hesitate to reply to these Questions? Do they not amply testify, and make evident, that those who managed this false and scandalous Accusation, were privy to I—— C—— being a forced Evidence?

Is it not conspicuous for what this Man was so long detained on Board, and what Ends were resolved to be obtained by any Course?—But let your own Conscience judge of them.

This principal Evidence failing, and leaving so black a Stain on the A——'s Character, was a Shock the Faction little thought to receive, and from this they lost all Hopes of proving their false Aspersions: Confusion now hung on all their Brows, and a general

ral Surprize seemed to be painted in the Looks of those of the Faction; who were permitted to know no more, than when they were to cry Yea, or Nay.

They had now nothing left but to cast an Imputation on I—C-—, in order to salve (if possible) the A—'s Character; therefore this C— was now to be called C-—, to be proved an Englishman and a Traitor: So that the very Evidence they brought to condemn Don P——, and those any ways concerned with him, or instrumental in his continuing here, was to be condemned himself.

It was likewise to be proved, that he had contradicted himself on Oath, but not in the principal Point, with regard to the A——, only that he was an Englishman born, and had called himself a S—. It will be needless to insert all the Querks that were used against this poor unfortunate Man; it will be sufficient to tell you, that after confusing him with repeated cross Questions, they were of Opinion that he was guilty of Equivocations upon Oath.—Tho' these Contradictions laid to his Charge, extended only in differing in some Points of Time of

his being at T _____, where it was made evident he had lived, and been brought up as a S- from an Infant; although he was born at the C--'s, and his Mother was a S- Woman: Is it not a Query. whether this Man might not be ignorant of his being born in English Dominions, and whether he became not a naturalized S--? And was there no Allowance to be made for a Man's being hurried out of a firitt Confinement, still under Terror of a Guard, and brought before he knew not who, or hardly for what? Was there no Confideration for a Man, who being upon Oath was obliged to speak the Truth; and dreading, on the Account of that Truth, the feverest Treatment, if suffered to return under the Same Power, whose rigid Prescriptions he had not followed? Such Ideas would perplex and confuse a Man better qualified, and one perhaps less liable to be awed, than a poor ignorant Pilot of a Sloop.

However, this did not clear the A-from the beavy Imputation fixed on him; and indeed the Point now in View with this bonest Quadruple, feemed to be which could clear themselves best, of being any ways privy to so heinous a Crime, without any Regard

Regard to others. But the House seemed tender, and shewed some Regard to the Rank of the King's A—-, Commander in Chief in these Seas; and knowing too, that while he remained with Power, the Island would suffer from his Resentment (Public Spirit with him, being buried in the Passions of Private Pique) they did not take that Notice of it, which Justice prompted; and therefore made it but too manifest, that the Crime was washed over, not washed off.

The A----'s Captain, the A----'s Secretary, the A----'s Agent for Prizes, were all to endeavour to prove C----'s Evidence of no Validity; who, before this Scene was exposed, and when thought a fure Proof against Don P----, no Objections were made to him. But now such Attempts were vain! The Probabilities, nay, the Proofs were too recent. So that the House, on this Day's Examination, came to the following Resolutions:

[&]quot;Don I---- C---- having informed the "Committee of the House, that he was "threatened by the A----, to give Testimony against Don P--- D'E ; and that being under the Terror of his "Power.

"Power, he gave his Answers to some Questions which were wrote on Paper,

- " presented to him by the A----; and hav-
- "ing before the Committee declared on "Oath, that the Answers were false and
- " extorted from him, and that he made the
- " fame in Hopes of procuring his Liberty,
- "which was promised him by the A----, in Case he informed against Don P----.
- " Refolved, That it be recommended to the House, that Don I--- be ta-
- " ken into the Custody of the Messenger of
- " this House *.
- " Refolved, That it be recommended to the House, that the Examination of Don
- " I---; with the Resolutions of the
- " House thereon, be communicated to the
- " A---- , by Mr. S---- +."

In Pursuance of these Resolutions, the A---- received all the Examination and

* This Resolution the House came to, on the Man's imploring so strongly, even on his Knees, and in Tears, that he might suffer Death, rather than return to the Place where, from what he had received, he might now expect Treatment worse than Death.

† This was a Resolution no less grating when re-

ceived, than intentionally strong when made.

Refolutions

[43]

Refolutions, inclosed in the following Letter.

SIR,

" I AM ordered by the Affembly to transmit to you the Examination of I—C—, with the Resolutions of our House on the same, which I now inclose to you, examined and attested by our Clerk."

Iam, SIR,

Your most bumble Servant,

C. P-, S-

During the Course of the Examination, many other Evidences were called; but C—'s being lost, they went on very languidly, and had nothing to lay any Stress upon, but Don P—'s own Confession, that of being concerned in the Havannah Company. None of the Witnesses produced, could prove that Don P— was either immediately concerned in Privateers, or had ever given any Intelligence of any kind to the Enemy. It had been maliciously afferted

ed by the Faction, and urged by fome in the House, that he was concerned in the G—
(a large S—— Privateer) who took Part of the P—— B—— Fleet, as he was ranging down the Coast, on his Return to the H——, from a long Cruize.

But to make his Innocence still clearer, a Letter wrote by Way of Journal, from the Captain of the G—, to the Proprietors of her, was produced to the House; which proved that he had no Intelligence, but it was merely accidental his meeting with them. This Letter was taken by a Privateer. The Affair of Intelligence being given up.

Mr.

^{*} Had it been proved that Don P—— was concerned in a Privateer, the Consequence was, to be sure, that he must have given Intelligence.

Mr. MF———*, was called to give an an Account of a Letter taken in the S—— Half-Galley (brought in by his Majesty's Ship the W——) which, was rumoured about would make appear that Don P—— was concerned in her; but, like the rest, it only convinced every one of Don P——'s Innocence.

In the Course of this Evidence, it appeared Mr. M'F—— had drawn up those Questions put to I—— C——; and that the A—— himself had wrote the proper Answers to them.

After Mr. M'F——, for some Time, had resused to be sworn, which, at last he was obliged too, he then prevaricated; but notwithstanding was obliged to produce that Paper to the House, where the A——'s swn Hand-writing but too plainly testified the Facts alledged by I—— C——; it was now no longer a Doubt what to conclude: It was but too evident, these were the Answers they depended on, had C—— been as villainously to be biassed on his Oath, as

^{*} The Joint Agent, with the A--- 's Captain for Prizes.

he was when follicitous to obtain his Freedom. There remained no more but to come to a Conclusion, which the House did by the following Resolutions, on the 26th of April.

I. Refolved, Nem. Con. "That it does "not appear to this Committee, that Don "P—D'E——, has given any Intelligence to any of his Majesty's Enemies."

II. Refolved, "That it does not appear to this Committee, that Don P—D'E— has, with his Knowledge or Confent, been immediately and directly concerned in Privateers."

III. Refolved, "That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Contract between E--M--, and f--O-, "Esqrs; and Don P--D'E--, and the Trade introduced in Consequence thereof, has been an Advantage to this Island, and to our Mother-Country; and no Detriment to the other Branches of Trade between this Island, and the Island of Cuba, or the S-- Main."

IV. Refolved, "That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that if his Excellency cy had not given Don P--- D'E---, Permission to engage in the said Contracts, and to reside here, for the more effectual Execution thereof, that it would have deprived this Island, and our Mother-Country of a beneficial and advantageous Trade."

V. Refolved, "It is the Opinion of this "Committee, that it be recommended to "the House, that an humble Address of "Thanks be presented to his Excellency, for promoting a Trade so beneficial to "this Island, and our Mother-Country."

VI. Refolved, That it be recommended to the House, that the Examinations and all Proceedings, in relation to Don P—'s being concerned in Privateers, and giving Intelligence to his Majesty's Enemies, and the Resolutions taken thereon, be printed forthwith at the Public Expence; and that his Excellency, every Member of the Council, and every Member of this House, have a Copy thereos."

Thus ended this ill-grounded, evil-intended Accusation, which is plain, only sprung from that self-tormenting Passion of Envy, that reigned in the Heads of the Faction; and which tended to no other End, than to sacrifice the Life of an innocent Foreign Gentleman, who had intrusted himself under the promised Protection of the G----and A----, to carry on a Commerce beneficial to both Nations, and approved by both Commanders in Chief.

The Lives and Fortunes of two Gentlemen (Mr. M-— and O---) who had entered into Contract with him, in Confequence of the Approbation the G—— and A—— had both fignified; and had hospitably and courteously received him into their Houses, for the Benefit of forwarding the Business with greater Satisfaction, and Conveniency to himself.

And lastly, and chiefly, the G——'s Character; whose known and conspicuous Pureness, had ever terrified the open Assaults of Envy, Hatred; and Malice, linked together with every other daring Vice; till now they were met, formed together, and wore so malignant a Head.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

By way of Postscript to you, I cannot help giving you the Satisfaction of knowing, that now the King's Affairs go on with the usual Ease and Approbation; fince those of the Faction were fo confounded, that many of them were ashamed of being seen in a Place, where they had appeared fo notoriously abandoned to Passions. The Assembly's Address to the G----which is all I add, will ferve to convince you that the Majority of the Representatives for the People, thought it is a Duty incumbent on them, to own the many Obligations they felt themfelves under to Mr. T----, for the great Benefits the Island had received fince his Government; and it was only an abandoned Crew, that had neither Honesty nor Gratitude to own, though they had both Sense and Art enough to know and partake of it. de inflication ; your Continues to to pro-

sequil "

throts every Thing that can focure and mo amilinos april H ologi mang The 9-1 7 0 1 1 May 2, 1745.

The Assemby's Address to the

To his Excellency E----,

The Humble Address of the Assembly.

" May it please your Excellency,

them were affiamed of being feen in a

Subjects the Affembly of f---, beg leave to return your Excellency our fincere Thanks, for opening and promoting a Trade, greatly beneficial to this Island and our Mother-Country.

The Reduction of the rebellious Slaves, gave us the earliest Presages of suture Happiness and Security, under the Wisdom and Goodness of your Excellency's Administration; your Continuance to promote every Thing that can secure and augment those Blessings confirms our Hopes;

" Hopes; while in Time of a Foreign War, with two most powerful Nations, you provide for enriching, by Trade, that

People, which you had faved from the Ruin and Destruction, with which they

" were threatened, from a most dangerous

and intestine Enemy."

Paffed the Affembly, May 2, 1746.

Word well to reign

noinimod mid of bool be priolis Dominion

To this bis Excellency Answered,

" Gentlemen,

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d ur S;

A M glad you agree in Opinion with me, concerning the Utility of the " Trade which I have allowed; the kind " Manner in which you mention our good

" Fortune, in reducing our rebellious Slaves,

" is very acceptable to me."

Sole

Sole Victor from th' Expulsion of his Foes,

Messab his triumphal Chariet turn'd:

To meet him all his Saints; who silent stood

Eye-Witnesses of his Almighty Acts,

With Jubilee advanc'd; and as they went,

Shaded with branching Palm, each Order

bright,

Sung Triumph, and him sung victorious

King,

Son, Heir, and Lord, to him Dominion

giv'n,

Worthiest to reign:

Milt. Par. Lost,

